

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-05 SIG-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09  
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
INRE-00 /162 R

2RAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDEPAND:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR  
CIA  
DOD  
WHITE HOUSE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 26

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 26, 1977: (FYI ONLY,  
THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.)

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Q. WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THIS REPORT IN AL ANWAR ABOUT AN  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION  
REGARDING A PROPOSAL TO POSITION UNITED NATIONS FORCES  
ALONG THE ISRAEL-LEBANESE BORDER?

A. WELL, I KNOW OF NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON  
THAT ISSUE. I HAVE NOT EVEN HEARD THAT DISCUSSED AS A  
POSSIBILITY OF OUR AGREEING TO THIS. I CAN SAY THAT THE  
UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT EVERY POSSIBILITY  
FOR BRINGING PEACE TO THAT AREA OUGHT TO BE EXPLORED, AND  
THE IDEA OF A UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS  
CLEARLY AN IDEA WHICH MIGHT BE FRUITFUL, BUT THE ULTIMATE  
DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A PEACE-  
KEEPING FORCE WOULD REST WITH THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF  
LEBANON AND NOT WITH US.

Q. WHILE ON THAT SAME SPECIFIC TOPIC, ARE THERE TALKS NOW  
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LEBANON AND ALSO, I SUPPOSE,  
SYRIA ON THE STATIONING OF U.N. TROOPS IN SOME FORM ON THE  
ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER?

A. WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING, AND I CAN CONTINUE TO SAY IS  
THAT WE HAVE BEEN TALKING FOR MONTHS, AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN  
HERE, AND I SUPPOSE LONGER, WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES, THE  
PRINCIPALS IN THAT AREA, ABOUT VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR  
BRINGING PEACE THERE. I, LITERALLY, DON'T KNOW OF SOME-  
THING NEW AND SPECIFIC HAVING TO DO WITH A U.N. FORCE THERE

RIGHT NOW. I WOULD JUST HAVE TO FALL BACK AND SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IS ONE AREA THAT IS OBVIOUSLY A POSSIBILITY.

Q. BECAUSE THIS WAS DISCUSSED BY THE PRESIDENT AND MR. BEGIN LAST WEEK AT SOME LENGTH.

A. I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH GOING ANY FURTHER THAN AGREEING WITH YOU THAT THE SUBJECT CAME UP WITH MR. BEGIN. I CAN'T REALLY GO INTO A LONG READ-OUT ON IT.  
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Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER THE U.N. OPTION IS NOW A MORE LIVE OPTION THAN IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST BECAUSE BY TELLING US IT'S A GOOD IDEA, IT REALLY IS NOT TELLING US TERRIBLY MUCH.

A. NO, I KNOW IT. I THINK I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. I SAW A PRESS REPORT SAYING THAT AN ISRAELI SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TWO MORE SETTLEMENTS HAD BEEN APPROVED IN THE WEST BANK AND THAT TEN MORE WERE CONTEMPLATED THIS YEAR. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I SAW THAT SAME REPORT. YES, I DO HAVE A COMMENT ON IT.

WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS REPORT, AND IT HAS INFORMED US THAT IT IS TAKING ACTION TO GIVE LEGAL STATUS TO THREE EXISTING SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FORMER GOVERNMENT HAD REFUSED TO LEGALIZE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SETTLEMENTS. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR, INCLUDING IN OUR RECENT TALKS HERE IN WASHINGTON, OUR VIEW THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS NOT ONLY CONTRARY TO THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION BUT ALSO CONSTITUTES AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS. WE ARE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT.

Q. WHEN DID YOU CHECK WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THIS?

A. THIS MORNING.

Q. WAS THAT HERE OR IN ISRAEL?  
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A. THIS MORNING.

Q. WAS THAT HERE OR IN ISRAEL?

A. IT WAS CHECKED HERE. THERE WAS CONVERSATION WITH

THE EMBASSY HERE IN RESPONSE TO THIS SET OF NEWS ITEMS THAT WE'VE ALL SEEN.

Q. WAS THE NEWS ITEM FROM ISRAEL?

A. YES, IT WAS.

Q. OFFICIALS SPOTTED IT HERE AND THEN CHECKED WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY?

A. THAT IS CORRECT. AND WHAT I HAVE JUST READ HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RELAYED TO THE EMBASSY HERE.

Q. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN DID NOT INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER OR THERE WAS NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF THIS RATHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUE?

A. LET ME LOOK A LITTLE FURTHER IN MY FILE. THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WAS DISCUSSED DURING THEIR CONVERSATION HERE. BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THEIR POSITIONS, BUT I REALLY CAN'T GO INTO SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS SAID.

Q. WHAT DOES THE TERM "LEGALIZE" MEAN IN THIS CONTEXT?

A. IT IS, TO THE BEST OF MY UNDERSTANDING -- AND I DO NOT HAVE A FULL READ ON THIS -- IT COMES DOWN TO JUST OFFICIAL RECOGNITION THAT THOSE ARE SETTLEMENTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES AS HAVING ALEGAL CLAIM UPON THAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF PROPERTY.

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Q. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE LEGAL SETTLEMENTS?

A. NO. I CANNOT. WE ARE NOT MUCH BETTER OFF THAN THAT IN THE ITTIAL STORY IN TERMS OF THE NAMES.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL STATES THAT THESE SETTLEMENTS OR THE PROPERTY THEY ARE ON IS,

THEREFORE, PART OF ISRAEL?

A. I THINK I AM GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THAT ONE BECAUSE AT THIS POINT THIS IS A VERY LATE PIECE OF PAPER I HAVE HERE AND I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE ANY SPECIFICS ON HOW THAT WORKS, WHICH I WILL BE GLAD TO DO.

Q. IF YOU COULD ADD TO THAT, DOES THIS CLAIM THAT YOU MENTION, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE SETTLERS HOLD PROPERTY TITLE?

A. THAT IS WHAT I MEAN. I WILL HAVE TO GET THAT AND I

WILL ADD THAT ALSO.

Q. I GATHER THAT WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THREE NEW SETTLEMENTS.

A. YES.

Q. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A STATUS CONFERRED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

A. YES.

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Q. COULD YOU CHECK ON WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER SETTLEMENTS IN THAT SAME CATEGORY? ARE THERE ANOTHER FIVE, TEN, WHAT-EVER, ON THE WEST BANK THAT AWAIT THIS STATUS OR DOES THIS COMPLETE THE LEGALIZATION OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. I WILL CHECK.

Q. WAS THERE ANYTHING SAID ABOUT ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS AS THE PRESS REPORT INDICATES?

A. THAT DID NOT ARISE, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IN THE INITIAL CONVERSATION. I WOULD JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT WHILE THAT IS A SPECULATIVE REPORT, IF IT PROVED OUT TO BE TRUE OUR POSITION ON THOSE WOULD BE THE SAME AS WHAT I HAVE JUST ENUNCIATED.

Q. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD EITHER THIS MORNING OR YESTERDAY THAT THERE WOULD BE NEW SETTLEMENTS?

A. NO, INsofar AS I KNOW, AND THE CONVERSATIONS WERE GOING FORWARD RIGHT UP UNTIL RECENTLY. I DON'T HAVE THAT SPECIFICALLY AND I DON'T THINK THAT THAT SPECIFICALLY WAS DEALT WITH. THERE WAS A CONFIRMATION ON WHAT HAD BEEN

DONE RATHER THAN ANY CONVERSATION ON WHAT MIGHT BE COMING.

Q. WHAT IS THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION?

A. ALL RIGHT. I WILL READ HERE. I WILL HAVE TO READ DEEPER AND GO FURTHER AND SAY ARTICLE 49. IT HAS TO DO, I AM CONFIDENT, WITH THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE QUESTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY, BUT WHAT, I CAN'T GO WITH YOU. I WILL GET THAT.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THIS ACTION BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS  
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NMENT RUNS CONTRARY TO YOUR APPEAL ON JUNE 27TH REGARDING THE WEST BANK OR DOES IT HAVE ANY RELATION TO THAT?

A. I DON'T THINK I AM GOING TO GO MUCH FURTHER THAN THIS EXCEPT TO SAY CLEARLY WE HOPE THAT PRIOR TO THE NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THERE WOULD BE NO STEPS WHICH MIGHT MAKE A SEARCH FOR PEACE ANY MORE DIFFICUT.

Q. BY THAT CAN WE INFER THAT YOU FEEL THAT IT MIGHT, IN FACT, AFFECT THE PROCESS?

A. NO. I CAN'T SAY THAT. I WOULD JUST SAY THAT CLEARLY WHAT WE HAD HOPED WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT THERE BE NO STEPS OF ANY SORT UNTIL, YOU KNOW FURTHER STEPS IN THE AREA, UNTIL WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN THIS NEW ROUND OF TALKS. I DO NOT WANT TO SAY THAT THIS ENDANGERS THE HOPES FOR PEACE. I WILL NOT SAY THAT.

Q. OR AFFECTS THE VANCE MISSION?

A. NO. I CAN'T SAY THAT EITHER?

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER MR. BEGIN WAS ASKED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN HIS MEETINGS LAST WEEK NOT TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENTS WHILE THIS PEACE MAKING PROCESS IS GOING FORWARD?

A. I CAN'T GO BEYOND SAYING THAT BOTH PARTIES EXPLAINED HOW THEY FELT ON IT; THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN WHAT THEY SAID TO EACH OTHER, AS I UNDERSTAND IT. I CANNOT GO INTO THE DETAILS.

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Q. YOU HAVE NO INDICATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THIS?

A. I HAVE NOTHING.

Q. COULD YOU CLEAR UP ONE THING? THE IMPLICATION, I THINK, FROM THE TOTALITY OF THIS MORNING IS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN A BIT BY SURPRISE BY THE ISRAELI DECISION TODAY. CAN YOU JUST CONFIRM IF THAT IS THE CASE OR HAD MR. BEGIN TOLD SOME HIGH OFFICIAL IN PRIVATE THAT WITHIN TWO DAYS OF HIS RETURN TO ISRAEL THEY WOULD DO THIS?

A. YES. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION. I SEE THAT THE NEWS STORY SPECULATES THAT, IN FACT, SOMETHING LIKE THAT

OCCURRED?

Q. COULD YOU CHECK ONE OF THE ISSUES THAT COMES UP RELATING TO BERNIE'S QUESTION? WHEN YOU SAY DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT, YOU CAN PUT THAT IN A VERY GENERAL CONTEXT BECAUSE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON THIS IS, IN FACT, WELL KNOWN AND LONG STANDING OR IS IT DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE OF AN UNDERSTANDING YOU FELT THAT YOU HAD RESULTING FROM THE TALKS LAST WEEK?

A. WELL, I MEAN WE ARE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE IT RUNS CONTRARY TO OUR LONGSTANDING BELIEF ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

I ALSO SAID, OF COURSE, THAT THIS, WE BELIEVE, CONSTITUTES AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS AND THAT CLEARLY ANYTHING, THEREFORE, WHICH CONSTITUTES SUCH AN OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS AND PEACE MAKING WOULD DISAPPOINT US, AS WE TRUST IT WOULD DISAPPOINT THEM.

Q. I UNDERSTAND, BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE RELATING UNCLASSIFIED

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IT ALSO TO AN UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU FELT YOU HAD LAST WEEK?

A. THAT, YOU SEE, I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ALSO BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW OF SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING LAST WEEK AND THIS WOULD ALL FLOW FROM THE SAME QUESTION.

Q. WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT THE ISRAELI LOBBYIST MORRIS AMITAY HAD HIS HOME BLOWN UP LAST NIGHT OR EARLY THIS MORNING?

A. LET ME SAY VERY CLEARLY THAT WE DEPLORE THIS.

Q. HAVE YOU ISSUED ANY STATEMENT ON THIS?

A. I AM SAYING IT RIGHT NOW.

Q. NO PREPARED STATEMENT?

A. NO. WE ARE VERY HAPPY THAT HIS FAMILY IS SAFE.

Q. YESTERDAY THE PRESIDENT'S OVAL OFFICE GUEST ON JULY 15TH, WHO WAS HIS BEATITUDE ELIAS IV OF ANTIOCH, PATRIARCH IN ANTIOCH, HE HAD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND SHOULD BE COMPRISED OF "EVERY INCH OF ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY." IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER YASSAR ARAFAT OR GEORGE HABASH SHOULD RULE HIS HOMELAND HIS BEATITUDE SAID QUOTE THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ELECT A LEADER OF

THEIR OWN CHOICE. END QUOTE.

MY QUESTION IS THIS: DOES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN ITS SUPPORT FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND (WHICH IS) UNDEFINED, UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AGREE THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ELECT THEIR OWN RULER OR DOES THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY ACCEPT MR. ARAFAT OR MR. HABASH? WHAT IS OUR POLICY?

A. LOOK, OUR POLICY IS THAT THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IS ONE WHICH REMAINS FOR THE PEACE PROCESS TO SOLVE AND TO SETTLE, AND THERE HAS TO BE A JUST SOLUTION TO IT, I AM JUST NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH HAS TO BE REACHED BY THE PARTIES IN THAT AREA.

Q. WELL, MY ONLY REASON FOR ASKING IS THIS: SINCE WE HAVE -- IN OTHER WORDS, WE DO FAVOR -- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES FAVOR A HOMELAND -- THAT IS CORRECT; IS IT NOT?

A. THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED A PALESTINIAN ENTITY.

Q. AND SINCE WE ARE ON RECORD AS FAVORING HUMAN RIGHTS, WE WOULD THEREFORE SUPPORT HIS BEATITUDE IN HIS YEARNING THAT THE PALESTINIANS BE ALLOWED TO ELECT THEIR OWN LEADERS? IS THAT NOT A LOGICAL CONCLUSION OR WHAT?

A. IT IS LOGICAL TO SUPPOSE THAT WE PREFER A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF SELECTION, PERIOD, IN ANY INSTANCE. IT IS ALSO LOGICAL TO CONCLUDE SINCE WE HAVE SAID IT REPEATEDLY THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE FORMULA, YOU KNOW, UNDER WHICH A NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES SHOULD TAKE PLACE. WE SIMPLY HAVE SOME

NOTIONS AS TO WHAT THE GENERAL SHAPE SHOULD PROPERLY INCLUDE AND COULD INCLUDE, BUT I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO HOW THE PROCESS TAKES PLACE.

Q. THEN ACTUALLY SINCE YOU HAVE SAID IT IS LOGICAL, SUPPOSE WE WANT A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, THEN IT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS ALSO LOGICAL TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WANT, IF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND DOES COME INTO EXISTENCE, IT JUST TO DEFER TO WHOEVER HAS THE MOST GUNS. YOU WOULD FAVOR A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT FOR THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND; IS THAT CORRECT?



A. I REALLY WOULD JUST RATHER NOT GO SPECULATING BEYOND THE CLEAR STATEMENT FROM WHICH YOU CAN DRAW WHATEVER INFERENCE YOU WISH ABOUT OUR PARTICULAR PREFERENCES GENERALLY, NOT MERELY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT ANYWHERE ELSE.

Q. WOULD YOU ASK THE SECRETARY IF HE FEELS THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ELECT THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF ISRAEL CHANGES ITS MIND?

A. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH THAT.

Q. BACK ON THE SETTLEMENTS, YOU SAID THAT THIS POSITION HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY. CAN YOU TELL US AT WHAT LEVEL AND BY WHOM?

A. IT WAS CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ.

Q. CAN YOU SAY BY WHOM, PLEASE?

A. IT WAS CONVEYED BY MR. ATHERTON.

Q. DOES THIS CONSTITUTE A PROTEST?

A. IT CONSTITUTES A NOTICE OF OUR DISAPPOINTMENT.

Q. A NOTICE OF DISAPPOINTMENT IS NOT EXACTLY A DIPLO-  
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MATIC PROCESS.

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO BEYOND WHAT THE STATEMENT SAYS ITSELF.

Q. IS THIS ACT BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THEN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S EYES REVERSIBLE AND SHOULD IT BE REVERSED?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE SETTLEMENTS IS THE SAME AND, THEREFORE, YOU CAN MAKE A LOGICAL CONCLUSION THAT WE WOULD FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO FOLLOW A POLICY WHICH WE BELIEVE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GENEVA UNDERSTANDING ON OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, REVERSE THE LEGALIZATION OF THOSE SETTLEMENTS?

A. I AM NOT REALLY GOING TO SUGGEST THE STEPS FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. I AM SIMPLY GOING TO SAY TO YOU THAT WE FEEL, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT IT IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Q. I AM SORRY. I AM NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND. DID YOU ACTUALLY ASK ISRAEL FOR A REVERSAL OF THE DECISION?

A. NO. THE ONLY THING THAT I UNDERSTAND SO FAR THAT HAS BEEN READ TO THEM IS OUR STATEMENT OF DISAPPOINTMENT.

Q. DID THEY TELL YOU WHETHER THEY HAD DECIDED TO DO THAT BECAUSE IT SAID "IT'S TAKING ACTION." IT HASN'T TAKEN THAT ACTION YET; HAS IT?

A. LET ME GO BACK TO THE EXACT WORDING. THEY HAD TOLD US THAT IT IS TAKING ACTION TO GIVE LEGAL STATUS. IT IS TAK-  
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ING ACTION. SO, I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT TENSE COME DOWN AS TO WHETHER IT IS NOW PAST SOME LEGAL THRESHOLD OR NOT. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. A POINT OF FACT IS THIS REALLY DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING; DOES IT? THE SETTLEMENTS ARE THERE, WHETHER THEY HAVE A LEGAL STATUS OR NOT.

A. WELL, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT. I THINK THAT CLEARLY WHEN A GOVERNMENT DECIDES IT WILL DO IT OFFICIALLY IT CHANGES THE STATUS OF SOME THINGS.

Q. WOULD OUR DISAPPOINTMENT BE ALLEVIATED IF THE ISRAELIS WERE TO GO IN AND UPROOT THOSE SETTLEMENTS OR WHAT?

A. I AM JUST REALLY GOING TO STAY WHERE I AM, WHICH IS THAT THOSE SETTLEMENTS ARE NOT CONSISTENT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG THEY HAVE BEEN THERE? AND BY THE WAY -- DO THEY HAVE NAMES?

A. YES, I'LL TELL YOU THIS -- LET ME PULL THE CLIPPING BACK. THE CLIPPING, TO ANSWER YOUR EARLIER QUESTIONS, DOES IDENTIFY KADUM, OFRA, MAALE ADUMIN.

Q. DOESN'T IT POSSIBLY COME DOWN TO JUST ONE SETTLEMENT BEING GIVEN LEGAL RECOGNITION? BECAUSE YOU SAY THAT THE FORMER GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO LEGALIZE --

A. AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SETTLEMENTS. I THINK THAT THEIR LANGUAGE IS DELIBERATE. I THINK THAT THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO RESEARCH IT.

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Q. DID MR. ATHERTON TELEPHONE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT TO MR. DINITZ, OR HOW WAS THIS DONE?

A. YES.

Q. IS MR. DINITZ STILL COMING IN THIS AFTERNOON?

A. YES.

Q. IS THAT RELATED TO THIS?

A. IT'S NOT RELATED, NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT IT WAS PART OF WHAT I THINK I SAID YESTERDAY IN THAT VERY LONG BRIEFING WE HAD.

Q. THEN IT'S REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE SUBJECT WILL COME UP IN THE DISCUSSION.

A. I WOULD THINK IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME SO.

Q. CAN YOU CHARACTERIZE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ON THIS BUSINESS --

A. NO.

Q. STATIONING UN TROOPS IN SOUTHERN -- ON THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER, WOULD THEN BE ALLOWED FOR THE SYRIANS TO MOVE SOUTH IN LEBANON?

A. AGAIN, I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH UN FORCES THERE, SINCE THAT IS SOMETHING I AM NOT MUCH PREPARED TO GO

BEYOND SAYING: IT IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AND TALKED ABOUT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE. I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON IT. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS A MATTER OF GREAT DETAIL YET IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. HODDING, THERE WAS A REPORT ON THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA, WHICH IS HAVING A WAR WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT, AS HAVE SEVERAL OTHER FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF OURS, ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE ARMS IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS WITH WHICH THE SOMALIS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, CONFINE ANY DEFENSE ARTICLES WE MIGHT PROVIDE TO ITEMS DESIGNED TO FILL ANY GAPS THAT MIGHT EXIST IN THE DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE

FOR SOMALIA'S PRESENT TERRITORY.

Q. AND BY THAT DO YOU MEAN THAT YOU WOULD NOT PROVIDE ARMS FOR ANY EXPANSIONISM ON THE PART OF SOMALIA?

A. I THINK THAT BY THAT, THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO FILL ANY GAPS THAT MIGHT EXIST IN THE DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE FOR SOMALIA'S PRESENT TERRITORY.

Q/ THE TERRITORY, AS IT IS ON THE MAP?

A. WE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE OAU PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES. INsofar AS THE QUESTION YOU RAISED IS CONCERNED, THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE OAU TO HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH, TO BE QUITE FRANK, BECAUSE THERE IS A (QUESTION) ON WHAT TERRITORY BELONGS TO WHOM.

Q. IS THERE ANY DETERMINATION YET ON THE LONGSTANDING UNCLASSIFIED

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REQUEST BY THE SUDAN FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE-- PARTICULARLY THE F-5?

A. I DON'T HAVE IT. I AM NOT SAYING THERE HASN'T BEEN. I SIMPLY HAVEN'T SEEN IT AND I AM NOT AWARE THAT IT'S GOING FORWARD.

Q. TALKING ABOUT IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS--DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SUPPLY WEAPONS WHICH WOULD BE PAID FOR BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN SOMALI ITSELF? NAMELY, SAUDI ARABIA?

A. INsofar AS THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE, I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT GRANT ASSISTANCE IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A PURCHASE. NOW I GUESS YOU ARE ASKING ME: WOULD WE TAKE MONEY PROVIDED BY SOMEBODY ELSE TO SOMALIA TO BUY ARMS FROM US. AND I ASSUME THAT THE QUESTION, IF SOMALIA HAS THE MONEY, AND WE HAVE AGREED TO SUPPLY A CERTAIN KIND OF ARMS --

Q. WELL, WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT "IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS" IS THE UNITED STATES ENVISAGING SETTING UP SOME SORT OF CONSORTIUM TO HANDLE MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA?

A. NO, SOMALIA HAS, HOWEVER, APPROACHED A NUMBER OF THESE OTHER NATIONS AND WE SIMPLY ARE PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH THAT APPROACH BY SOMALIA -- TO GO FORWARD WITH SOME ASSISTANCE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT OUR POLICY WOULD BE COORDINATED

WITH THESE OTHER NATIONS SO THAT WE ARE AGREEING WITH THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH AND THE SAUDI ARABIANS ETC ON WHAT IS GOING TO BE DONE -- RATHER THAN ACTING ON OUR OWN?

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A. NO, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE IS THAT COORDINATED APPROACH -- OR THAT THERE IS A COORDINATED POLICY ALONG THAT LINE TO DO A PACKAGE DEAL.

I THINK WE HAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS WHICH WE ARE CONSIDERING, AND WHICH WE WILL RESPOND TO IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT WE BELIEVE IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ARMS POLICY.

Q. BUT IS OUR ATTITUDE ON SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA IN ANY WAY LINKED WITH THE CONTINUING RUSSIAN PRESENCE IN BERBERA?

A. IT IS NOT LINKED TO THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN BERBERA.

IF WE DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE SOMALIS TO KNOW THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE DEPENDENT UPON THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT WE AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE THEM WITH DEFENSIVE ARMS--IN OTHER WORDS, TO PROVIDE THEM WITH AN ALTERNATIVE IF THEY CHOOSE TO USE IT.

Q. WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES ARE WE COORDINATING OUR ACTIONS WITH?

A. I JUST GOT THROUGH TELLING YOU THAT I WAS NOT COORDINATING IT IN A PACKAGE THING. WE ARE CERTAINLY, HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOMALIS HAVE APPROACHED A NUMBER. I WOULD JUST PREFER NOT TO SAY WHO THEY ARE. IT WOULD BE UP TO THEM TO SAY, IF THEY HAD BEEN APPROACHED.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES HAVING TALKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON AID TO SOMALIA? MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA?  
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A. I WOULD ASSUME THAT WE HAVE TALKED TO SOME OF OUR ALLIES ABOUT THIS.

Q. SOME OF OUR WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES?

A. SOME OF OUR "FRIENDS AND ALLIES" I THINK IS THE PHRASE.

Q. SO THIS COULD INCLUDE SOME MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT --

A. IT COULD INCLUDE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

Q. IF YOU SAY GRANT ASSISTANCE IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION, WHAT ABOUT FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS?

A. I BELIEVE THAT THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITIES IN THAT AREA. I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW, HOWEVER, AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO GET MORE SPECIFIC ON THE FORM OF THIS MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ON THE TYPE OF ARMS?

A. NO.

2. QUESTIONS TAKEN:

Q. DID THIS REPORT TAKE US BY SURPRISE, OR DID MR. BEGIN WARN US IN HIS MEETING LAST WEEK WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT, OR WAS THERE AN UNDERSTANDING LAST WEEK BETWEEN MR. BEGIN AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

A. --THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THESE STEPS BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

--WE CANNOT GO INTO DETAILS OF THE PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, BEYOND REPEATING THAT BOTH LEADERS TOLD ONE ANOTHER THEIR POSITIONS ON SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Q. IS THE OPTION OF A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE "MORE ALIVE" NOW THAN IN THE PAST?

A. --WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WITH ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR BRINGING PEACE TO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

--WHILE THESE EXPLORATIONS CONTINUE, WE CANNOT GO INTO DETAILS ABOUT THEM OR SPECULATE ON WHICH IS THE MOST PROMISING.

Q. DOES LEGALIZING MEAN THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL SAYS THAT THE SETTLEMENTS ARE PART OF ISRAEL OR DOES IT GIVE PROPERTY TITLE OR WHAT?

A. --FOR THESE DETAILS, YOU SHOULD ASK THE ISRAELI

GOVERNMENT.

--IN GENERAL, OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THESE SETTLEMENTS  
ARE NOW AUTHORIZED, EX POST FACTO, BY THE ISRAELI  
GOVERNMENT.

Q. WHAT DOES THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION DEAL WITH -  
ESPECIALLY ARTICLE 49?

A. --WE ARE SPEAKING OF ARTICLE 49 (DEPORTATIONS,  
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TRANSFERS, EVACUATIONS) OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION  
RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME  
OF WAR, OF AUGUST 12, 1949.

--ARTICLE 49 SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO THE ISSUE OF POPULATION  
TRANSFER: "THE OCCUPYING POWER SHALL NOT DEPORT OR  
TRANSFER PARTS OF ITS OWN CIVILIAN POPULATION INTO THE  
TERRITORY IT OCCUPIES."

Q. ARE THERE OTHER SETTLEMENTS AWAITING LEGALIZATION?

A. --THAT IS A QUESTION FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO  
ANSWER. VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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